

Message Text

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PAGE 01 CAIRO 09162 231643Z
ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 ISO-00 CU-04 PM-05 NSC-05 SP-02
SS-15 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 PA-01
USIA-06 /069 W
-----104977 240508Z /21

R 231635Z MAR 78
FM AMEMBASSY CAIRO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7090
INFO AMCONSUL ALEXANDRIA
AMEMBASSY JIDDA
AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM
USMISSION SINAI

C O N F I D E N T I A L CAIRO 09162

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: EG PINT
SUBJECT: EGYPTIAN STUDENT ELECTIONS

REFS: (A) CAIRO 4274, (B) CAIRO 7724

1. DURING MARCH 23 CONVERSATION, LEADING LEFTIST LUTFI AL-KHULI EXPRESSED DOUBT THAT NATIONAL STUDENT UNION ELECTIONS WILL TAKE PLACE THIS YEAR. HE NOTED GOVERNMENT HAD MOVED AGAINST LEFTISTS IN FIRST ROUND, AND CONSERVATIVE RELIGIOUS GROUPS THEREAFTER (REF B). WITHOUT GOVERNMENT INTERVENTION, AL-KHULI MAINTAINED, EXTREMES WOULD HAVE WON SINCE FEW STUDENTS INTERESTED IN POLITICS. CLAIMED PRESENT GOAL IS TO DELAY FINAL ELECTION UNTIL ISSUE BECOMES MOOT POINT, THEREBY AVOIDING EMBARRASSING CENTER PARTY SUPPORTERS WHO, DESPITE GOVERNMENT ASSISTANCE, DID NOT DO WELL. STUDENT CRAMMING WILL BEGIN NEXT WEEK, EXAMINATIONS FOLLOW, THEN STUDENTS GO HOME FOR SUMMER. NEXT FALL, HE EXPECTS GOVERNMENT TO BEGIN WHOLE PROCESS AGAIN.

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PAGE 02 CAIRO 09162 231643Z

2. SO FAR AS WE ARE ABLE TO DETERMINE, GOVERNMENT WAS REASONABLY SUCCESSFUL IN RETURNING MODERATE LEADERSHIP AT AIN SHAMS AND CAIRO UNIVERSITIES. MANSURA AND ALEXANDRIA, HOWEVER, CLEARLY DOMINATED BY ISLAMIC REPRESENTATIVES. DESPITE THIS, WE UNAWARE OF ANY OVERT CAMPUS REACTION TO TAKFIRI EXECUTIONS AT EITHER SCHOOL, ALTHOUGH THIS IS MUCH DEBATED TOPIC AT ALL EGYPTIAN

UNIVERSITIES. EILTS

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NNN

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